

## Claims

1. A gathering and picking device with a gathering element, which is rotated about an approximately vertical axis that is arranged to grasp plant stalks, and to transport the plant stalks along a picking gap of a picking device, the picking gap having an effective length, characterized by the fact that the picking gap is curved such that it has an essentially constant distance from the vertical axis of the gathering element over its effective length.

2. The gathering and picking device as defined by claim 1 wherein the gathering element is provided with fingers that extend radially outward from the vertical axis, the fingers are oriented substantially perpendicular to the picking gap.

3. The gathering and picking device as defined by claim 2 wherein the picking gap has an end region outside the effective length, the end region is spaced from the vertical axis of the gathering element by a greater distance than the remainder of the picking gap.

4. The gathering and picking device as defined by claim 1 wherein a picking roll is arranged beneath the picking gap, the picking roll having an inlet zone and the picking gap having an inlet region, the inlet zone of the picking roll is situated beneath the inlet region of the picking gap.

5. The gathering and picking device as defined by claim 2 wherein a picking roll is arranged beneath the picking gap, the picking roll having an inlet zone and the picking gap having an inlet region, the inlet zone of the picking roll is situated beneath the inlet region of the picking gap.

6. The gathering and picking device as defined by claim 3 wherein a picking roll is arranged beneath the picking gap, the picking roll having an inlet zone and the picking gap having an inlet region, the inlet zone of the picking roll is situated beneath the inlet region of the picking gap.